



ROM and the Promised Land

Avon Acker

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"To trample underfoot any prisoner in the land, to deprive a man of his rights in defiance of the Most High, to pervert justice in the courts - such things the Lord has never approved." Lamentations 3: 34-36

A riveting novel that focuses a spotlight on the oppressive mistreatment of former slaves following the civil war.

At the age of five, Rom Decker is freed from slavery along with his mother and grandmother. Blessed with a good mind and remarkable physical skills, he becomes a valued employee to the white family who freed him. Growing up, Rom is mystified at the way slaves allowed whites to dominate their lives. Because of this lack of understanding, he begins to develop contempt for his own people.

After the civil war, Rom joins a party of hunters going to Kansas to hunt buffalo for their hides. His dream is to earn enough money to buy his own plantation. When a more mature Rom returns home, he is outraged at the way former slaves have been drawn back into virtual slavery through the demeaning practice of sharecropping.

Rom is determined to help as many sharecroppers as possible escape the bondage imposed by big landowners. To do so, he makes the unselfish decision to use his personal resources and skills to lead his people to a new beginning in Arizona. Savage Indians, renegade outlaws, racial prejudice, and an exceedingly harsh country must be conquered to reach the "promised land." Along the way Rom finds romance, love, and a renewed faith in his creator that will help him face travails and personal tragedies.

Author bio: Avon Acker has delved deeply into the treatment of former slaves during the years following the civil war. The desperate attempt of the big landowners to maintain a source of cheap labor through the nefarious practice of sharecropping, and the corrupting of the noble goals of Reconstruction, were highly detrimental to the integration of freed slaves into mainstream America.

Acker is a lifelong resident of East Texas and a graduate of East Texas State University. He has been married to Beverly for fifty years and they have three sons, six granddaughters, and four great grandchildren.

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